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| | | | EXAMINER | |
| | | | NGUYEN, CHAU T | |
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| | | | 2176 | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/820,685

Applicant(s)

PRADHAN, AUROBINDA

Examiner

Chau Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 September 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-16,18 and 19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-16,18 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's amendment filed on 09/05/2007 has been entered. Claims 1, 3-16 and 18-19 are pending. Claims 2 and 17 are canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1, 3-16 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rivette et al (US 6389434, issued May 14, 2002) in view of Bendik, US Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0046224, and further in view of Beres et al., US Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0210040.**

4. **Regarding claims 1, 12 and 16, Rivette teaches *displaying a view of a selectable electronic document on a graphical user interface*. For example, Rivette discloses a method for creating subnotes linked to portions of data objects, where user viewing a note can view sub-notes attached to the note in the source (col 4, lines 3-6) on a GUI on the screen (col 21, lines 55-58).**

Rivette teaches *receiving, while the view of the selected electronic document is being displayed, a predetermined user input generated with an input control to create a first new electronic document*. For example, creating a sub-note in a note based on the

requests from the user viewing the document, to display selected portion linked to the subnote attached to the note (col 4, lines 1-7).

Rivette teaches *creating the first new electronic document in response to receiving a user input, wherein the selected electronic document and the first new electronic document are linked to each other, and wherein the input control is configured so that upon a view of the first new electronic document being displayed in the graphical user interface, the input control can be used to create a second new electronic document that is linked to the first new electronic document.* For example, Rivette teaches creating sub-notes associated and linked to the note while note is being viewed by the user based on the user's request (col 2, lines 1-7; col 5, lines 40-55). Rivette is directed to a method of linking notes to data objects that enables a user to create a sub-note-in a note, and links the sub-note to the selected portion (col 3, line 65-col 4, line 5).

Rivette does not expressly teach ***predetermined*** user input, but Rivette does suggest it based on the disclosure. For example, Rivette discloses operations of the invention with menu options for creating a note/sub-note (col 5, lines 25-30).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to interpret Rivette's disclosure to include menu options for creating notes/sub-notes (i.e., "predetermined" user input), providing the benefit of organizing information such that the data objects that relate to a particular topic are associated with other data objects that are related to the same topic (Rivette, col 1, lines 49-53).

However, Rivette does not disclose *the view being displayed in a computer system configured for creating any of a plurality of types of electronic documents selectively as either of (i) an independent electronic document that is not linked to any other electronic document upon its creation, and (ii) a linked electronic document that is linked to another electronic document upon its creation; and displaying a menu that is an input control in the graphical user interface, the menu comprising user-selectable commands associated with at least some of the plurality of types of electronic documents, wherein upon any of the user-selectable commands being generated there is created a linked electronic document having the corresponding type.*

Bendik discloses a computer implemented method for managing documents including the steps of creating a document profile and linking the document profile to a file type that is not created within the document management system (page 1, paragraphs [0008]-[0010]). Bendik discloses in Figure 6A and page 4, paragraph [0053] a graphical user interface displayed for creating document templates based on software application and a document type, i.e., letter, memorandum, budget, etc. under the create menu, and a user or an administrator can define a template name, a relative path (link) for the template and an application associated with the template (also see Figure 6B). In addition, Bendik discloses the user also defines particular library that includes an office location and a URL associated to each office specifying the name of the server and the path of the document storage (page 5, paragraph [0056]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bendik with Rivette to include the view

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being displayed in a computer system configured for creating any of a plurality of types of electronic documents selectively as either of (i) an independent electronic document that is not linked to any other electronic document upon its creation, and (ii) a linked electronic document that is linked to another electronic document upon its creation; and displaying a menu that is an input control in the graphical user interface, the menu comprising user-selectable commands associated with at least some of the plurality of types of electronic documents, wherein upon any of the user-selectable commands being generated there is created a linked electronic document having the corresponding type for the purpose of developing improved document management systems.

However, Rivette and Bendik do not explicitly disclose *direct navigation is provided between the linked electronic document and the other electronic document, direct navigation is provided between the selected electronic document and the first new electronic document, and direct navigation is provided between the first new electronic document and the second new electronic document.*

In the same field of endeavor, Beres discloses a document may not have any organizational links or may have organizational links to one or more documents (page 2, paragraph [0027]). Beres further discloses receiving a plurality of records, each record has a plurality of attributes associated with a document recorded with a government entity, creating organization links, each defines a relationship from a first document associated with one of the records to a second document associated with a second one of the records (page 1, paragraph [0004], page 2, paragraph [0025]), and thus this implies direct navigation is provided between the linked electronic document and the

other electronic document. Beres further discloses in Figures 6-7, page 3, paragraph [0033] and page 5, paragraphs [0052]-[0055] that links may also be defined between any two documents such as record 501 of document 1 (selected document) is linked to record 509 of document 2 (1st new electronic document), and the record 509 of document 2 is linked to record 502 of document 3 (2nd new electronic document).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Beres with Rivette and Bendik to include direct navigation is provided between the linked electronic document and the other electronic document, direct navigation is provided between the selected electronic document and the first new electronic document, and direct navigation is provided between the first new electronic document and the second new electronic document for the purpose of organizing related documents.

5. **Regarding Claims 4, 11 and 19**, Rivette teaches predetermined user input specifies that the first new electronic document is a follow-up of the selected electronic document. For example, the user making a request to create a sub-note for a note by selecting command 5.2 from the Note Menu for Operation of the Invention (col 4, lines 2-5; col 5, lines 25-30).

6. **Regarding Claims 5 and 13**, Rivette teaches storing an identifier ... the first new electronic document to link them to each other. For example, storing the

notes/subnotes in the notes database with note identifier field as Note A (col 19, lines 20-23; col 25, lines 13-15).

However, Rivette does not disclose the identifier configured for use in the direct navigation between the selected electronic document and the first new electronic document.

In the same field of endeavor, Beres discloses a document may not have any organizational links or may have organizational links to one or more documents (page 2, paragraph [0027]). Beres further discloses receiving a plurality of records, each record (identifier) has a plurality of attributes associated with a document recorded with a government entity, creating organization links, each defines a relationship from a first document associated with one of the records to a second document associated with a second one of the records (page 1, paragraph [0004], page 2, paragraph [0025]), and thus this implies direct navigation is provided between the linked electronic document and the other electronic document. Beres further discloses in Figures 6-7, page 3, paragraph [0033] and page 5, paragraphs [0052]-[0055] that links may also be defined between any two documents such as record 501 of document 1 (selected document) is linked to record 509 of document 2 (1st new electronic document), and the record 509 of document 2 is linked to record 502 of document 3 (2nd new electronic document).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Beres with Rivette to include the identifier configured for use in the direct navigation between the selected electronic

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document and the first new electronic document for the purpose of organizing related documents.

7. **Regarding Claims 6 and 14**, Rivette teaches using the identifier ...while a view of the selected electronic document is being displayed, provide access to the first new electronic document. For example, subnotes linked to source materials where line 4230 is bi-directional from source to the note and back to the source (col 8, lines 24-30; Fig 31A and 31B).

However, Rivette does not explicitly disclose the direct navigation between the selected electronic document and the first new electronic document.

In the same field of endeavor, Beres discloses a document may not have any organizational links or may have organizational links to one or more documents (page 2, paragraph [0027]). Beres further discloses receiving a plurality of records, each record (identifier) has a plurality of attributes associated with a document recorded with a government entity, creating organization links, each defines a relationship from a first document associated with one of the records to a second document associated with a second one of the records (page 1, paragraph [0004], page 2, paragraph [0025]), and thus this implies direct navigation is provided between the linked electronic document and the other electronic document. Beres further discloses in Figures 6-7, page 3, paragraph [0033] and page 5, paragraphs [0052]-[0055] that links may also be defined between any two documents such as record 501 of document 1 (selected document) is

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linked to record 509 of document 2 (1st new electronic document), and the record 509 of document 2 is linked to record 502 of document 3 (2nd new electronic document).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Beres with Rivette to include the direct navigation between the selected electronic document and the first new electronic document for the purpose of organizing related documents.

8. **Regarding Claim 7 and 15**, Rivette teaches using the identifier ... while the view of the selected electronic document is being displayed, to provide access to the first new electronic document. For example, subnotes linked to source materials where line 4230 is bi-directional from source to the note and back to the source (col 8, lines 24-30), where in Fig 31B are linked to source document in 31A on the same user interface (col 8, lines 24-30; Fig 31A and Fig 31B).

However, Rivette does not explicitly disclose the direct navigation between the selected electronic document and the first new electronic document.

In the same field of endeavor, Beres discloses a document may not have any organizational links or may have organizational links to one or more documents (page 2, paragraph [0027]). Beres further discloses receiving a plurality of records, each record (identifier) has a plurality of attributes associated with a document recorded with a government entity, creating organization links, each defines a relationship from a first document associated with one of the records to a second document associated with a second one of the records (page 1, paragraph [0004], page 2, paragraph [0025]), and

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thus this implies direct navigation is provided between the linked electronic document and the other electronic document. Beres further discloses in Figures 6-7, page 3, paragraph [0033] and page 5, paragraphs [0052]-[0055] that links may also be defined between any two documents such as record 501 of document 1 (selected document) is linked to record 509 of document 2 (1st new electronic document), and the record 509 of document 2 is linked to record 502 of document 3 (2nd new electronic document).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Beres with Rivette to include the direct navigation between the selected electronic document and the first new electronic document for the purpose of organizing related documents.

9. **Regarding Claim 8**, Rivette teaches making a determination ... displayed; and generating ... determination. For example, displaying the sub-note based on the selected portion of the note on the display window screen (col 4, lines 1-10).

10. **Regarding claim 9**, Rivette teaches a first identifier ... a second identifier is stored in association with the first new electronic document to link them to each other. For example, bi-directional links allow users to navigate from objects to sub-notes via links (col 11, lines 25-30).

However, Rivette does not explicitly disclose the first and second identifiers configured for use in the direct navigation between the selected electronic document and the first new electronic document.

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In the same field of endeavor, Beres discloses a document may not have any organizational links or may have organizational links to one or more documents (page 2, paragraph [0027]). Beres further discloses receiving a plurality of records, each record (identifier) has a plurality of attributes associated with a document recorded with a government entity, creating organization links, each defines a relationship from a first document associated with one of the records (first identifier) to a second document associated with a second one of the records (second identifier) (page 1, paragraph [0004], page 2, paragraph [0025]), and thus this implies direct navigation is provided between the linked electronic document and the other electronic document. Beres further discloses in Figures 6-7, page 3, paragraph [0033] and page 5, paragraphs [0052]-[0055] that links may also be defined between any two documents such as record 501 of document 1 (selected document) is linked to record 509 of document 2 (1st new electronic document), and the record 509 of document 2 is linked to record 502 of document 3 (2nd new electronic document).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Beres with Rivette to include the first and second identifiers configured for use in the direct navigation between the selected electronic document and the first new electronic document for the purpose of organizing related documents.

11. **Regarding claim 10**, Rivette teaches selected electronic document ... link them to each other. For example, since all of the notes and sub-notes can be embedded,

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from source to Note A to Note B to Note C, Note B is a third note that is associated to the source document via a linked list connecting source to note A and then Note A to Note B (col 25, lines 13-24).

However, Rivette does not explicitly disclose direct navigation is provided between the selected electronic document and the other electronic document. In the same field of endeavor, Beres discloses a document may not have any organizational links or may have organizational links to one or more documents (page 2, paragraph [0027]). Beres further discloses receiving a plurality of records, each record has a plurality of attributes associated with a document recorded with a government entity, creating organization links, each defines a relationship from a first document associated with one of the records to a second document associated with a second one of the records (page 1, paragraph [0004], page 2, paragraph [0025]), and thus this implies direct navigation is provided between the linked electronic document and the other electronic document. Beres further discloses in Figures 6-7, page 3, paragraph [0033] and page 5, paragraphs [0052]-[0055] that links may also be defined between any two documents such as record 501 of document 1 (selected document) is linked to record 509 of document 2 (1st new electronic document), and the record 509 of document 2 is linked to record 502 of document 3 (2nd new electronic document).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Beres with Rivette to include direct navigation is provided between the selected electronic document and the other electronic document for the purpose of organizing related documents.

12. **Regarding claims 3 and 18**, Rivette does not teach wherein the menu further includes another user-selectable command for creating the independent electronic document.

Bendik discloses in Figures 6A and 6B a document template includes create menu that a user can select on the create menu to create a document template.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bendik with Rivette to include the menu further includes another user-selectable command for creating the independent electronic document for the purpose of developing improved document management systems.

Response to Arguments

In the remarks, Applicant argued in substance that

A) The prior art does not show a system where documents can be created as either independent or linked (see page 9 of the remarks).

In reply to argument A, Bendik discloses steps of creating a document profile and selecting a predefined document template for the document during creation of the document profile (page 1, paragraph [0008]). Bendik further discloses linking the document profile to a file type that is not created within the document management system, and the file type may be a document, a database record, or a URL link. Bendik further discloses a user or an administrator can define a template name, a relative path

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(link) for the template and an application associated with the template (page 4, paragraph [0053], page 5, paragraph [0056] and Figure 6B), thus this implies the user or the administrator can have a choice of not defining a relative path (link) for the template, and therefore, the template is independent.

B) The prior art does not show a menu for creating a linked document of any of multiple types of documents (see page 9 of the remarks).

In reply to argument B, Bendik discloses the system administrator or other person of the document management system can set up document templates based on a document type under the create menu 90, and the administrator can define a relative path (link) the template (page 4, paragraph [0053]).

C) The prior art does not show that linked documents provide direct navigation between each other (see page 10 of the remarks).

In reply to argument C, Applicant's arguments with respect to "direct navigation between each other" have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection as explained here above.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chau Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4092. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am – 5:30 pm Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Hutton, can be reached on (571) 272-4137. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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On July 15, 2005, the Central Facsimile (FAX) Number will change from 703-872-9306 to 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Chau Nguyen
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2176

/Doug Hutton/
Doug Hutton
Supervisory Primary Examiner
Technology Center 2100